

To: ConnectME Authority
Phil Lindley, Executive Director ConnectME

RE: Pre-Application Letter

Project: Amity Fiber Project, Amity, ME

In response to the Authority's announcement of its seventh grant round, Pioneer Wireless, Inc., dba Pioneer Broadband, ("Pioneer", PBB) is pleased to submit this Pre-Application letter for our "Amity Fiber Project."

1. We are proposing to install a "Fiber to the home" run on a segment of the Estabrook Rd in Amity, ME. The service area is a 1.5 mile portion of the Amity area that includes approximately 25 households. Pioneer has received other funding from the ConnectME Authority to implement DSL service in Amity and was very successful with the project except for this segment of road. Due to the design of the ILEC's wire plant, this segment of road is served from a distant Remote Terminal (in a different town) which is well beyond the 18,000' distance that DSL can serve.
2. Our knowledge of this area is extensive. We have communicated with other service providers (FairPoint) in the region and there is no evidence that they have plans to expand into this locale.
3. We intend to utilize a fiber optic backhaul link to serve from our Amity DSLAM on US Route 1. Broadband speeds of the Tier 5 level will be provided to the home. It is estimated the installation of the backhaul fiber and GPON equipment can be completed within 18 months of funding depending on weather conditions and when the ILEC's make-ready is completed. Customer installations can begin immediately.
4. Current estimated project cost is \$23,146. This amount is subject to change as project details are worked out and will be finalized within the formal application for this project. PBB is requesting funding for \$5,787 representing 25% of the estimated project cost.
5. PBB will fund \$5,787, or 25% of the estimated project cost. Appropriate documentation and evidence of funding availability will be provided in the formal application in a form acceptable to the Authority.
6. There are an estimated 25 households served within a 1.5 mile stretch of the project site. PBB will obtain the exact number of possible customers from the LEC when we submit the full application. There are no known businesses. We calculate that the DSLAM can serve all 25 residential customers, thus providing 100% coverage on this road segment.

7. We are working with the area businesses and local groups in gathering support of this project. Evidence of partnerships and statements of support are being acquired and will be included within the formal application.

8. PBB serves 55 towns from 80 locations, broadcasting over 5000 square miles, and serving over 5000 customers via fiber optic cable, wireless, cable, DSL, dialup. PBB has a proven track record of successful expansion activities and deep commitment to serving rural Maine. Pioneer has been the recipient of past grant funding from the ConnectME Authority as well.

We look forward to formal application availability and working with the Authority to bridge the digital divide for the residents and businesses of this area.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Flewelling

